

Private Well Program

Fifth Annual Report 2003–2004

INTRODUCTION

About 760,000 South Carolina residents depend on individual residential wells for their water needs. Groundwater from individual wells is a safe, reliable source of water as long as the well is properly constructed. The purpose of the Private Well Program is to help ensure that this is the case.

PERMITTING

August 24, 2004 marked the fifth anniversary of the Private Well Program at DHEC. During the fifth year, 7,390 Notices of Intent were submitted for residential wells and 2,475 for irrigation wells, for a total of 9,865 wells. Lexington County remains the busiest with more than eight hundred permits issued. Charleston County had nearly eight hundred permits issued. York County was next, with nearly seven hundred permits.

FEES

The fees collected during fiscal year 2004 totaled \$497,750 for residential wells and \$114,460 for irrigation wells. This totals \$612,210 for the year. These fees solely support the Private Well Program permitting and technical personnel, District EQC inspectors and operating expenses.

INSPECTIONS

The DHEC Well Inspectors conducted 4,469 inspections during the fifth year of the program. A majority of the wells inspected were found to be in compliance with the *Well Standards, R.61-71*. Enforcement action was brought against drillers whose wells were not in compliance. During the reporting period, seven Consent Orders were issued that included civil penalties of \$37,400 and three Administrative orders were issued with civil penalties of \$62,000.



*Promoting and protecting the health of the public
and the environment.*